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also aid in dispersal of spores. Another decided advantage which *Funaria* has over many other mosses is that in many regions it is an annual² maturing its spores not only in one season but during the early part of the season. Mature capsules were found in Chicago and Milwaukee in June and in Oregon in May.

All of these characters tend to make *Funaria* a species of wide distribution, and enable it to take entire possession of many barren areas. Its economic value lies in its pioneer character. It holds possession only until, by accumulation of waste and change in chemical content of the soil, other plants are able to exist in places previously wholly unsuited to their needs.

ELLIOTT, IOWA.

BUXBAUMIA INDUSIATA BRID., FROM BRANDON, VERMONT

D. LEWIS DUTTON

In the latter part of January, 1916, I found a capsule of a moss that was a *Buxbaumia* without any doubt, but did not look like anything that I had collected before. Upon looking up the genus *Buxbaumia* in "Mosses with Hand-lens and Microscope" I found that I had a rare moss, *Buxbaumia indusiata* Brid.

No amount of search then brought any more specimens to light, and not until April, 1920, did I find any more capsules. At that date I found five or six good specimens which have since been verified by Dr. Grout.

BRANDON, VERMONT

SOME WAR BRYOLOGY

The two following publications are so unlikely to be generally accessible that brief notice of them as illustrations of the triumph of science over warfare may not be out of place.

I

N. MALTA: BEITRÄGE ZUR MOOSFLORA DES GOUVERNEMENTS PLESKAU, MIT BESONDERER BERÜCKSICHTIGUNG DES KALKSTEINGEBIETES DER WELIKAJAMÜNDUNG. RIGA, 1919.

This is a booklet of 78 pages, dealing both from the systematic and oecological point of view with the bryophyte vegetation of a limited area in Russia in the province of Pskov (Pleskau, Pleskow), just east of the former Baltic Provinces. The author was forced by "circumstances of war" to spend the years 1916 and 1917 in Pskov and made use of this opportunity to study intensively the moss-vegetation especially of the dolomitic limestone area about the mouth of the Velikaya ("Great River") which empties into Lake Pskov. The im-

² Campbell, D. H. Mosses and Ferns, p. 166.

mediate region was hitherto uninvestigated as to its bryological flora, but was naturally found to be closely similar to that of corresponding areas in the better known Baltic Provinces. A complete list of the species of bryophytes found is given with careful details as to habitat, etc. A new *Bryum androgynum* is described (by Warnstorf) and figured, and the author also includes a new variety *pleskowiensis* of *Seligeria recurvata* with figure, remarking that it is very near *S. campylopoda* Kindb. and suggesting that critical revision might reduce the number of species of *Seligeria*. The region investigated lay well behind the Russian lines through 1917, but has since been the scene of considerable fighting. That a scientific work of the sort could be published in Riga under the disturbed conditions of 1919 is remarkable, that it is printed in German is hardly less so.

II

T. HERZOG: BEITRÄGE ZUR BRYO GEOGRAPHIE SÜDOSTEUROPAS. KRYPTOGAMISCHE FORSCHUNGEN, HERAUSGEGEBEN VON DER BAYERISCHEN BOTANISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT, MÜNCHEN, HEFT IV, 274-298, 1919.

This contains two distinct papers, one on Macedonia and the other on the Transylvanian Alps. The author was actively engaged in operations at the front in the Balkan theatre of war, taking part in the campaign against Rumania and serving a year apparently with a German unit cooperating with the Bulgarian forces in Macedonia. In the latter service he was stationed in the critical sector of the Cherna bend, where he was able to study intensively a limited area, whose moss-vegetation was hitherto unknown. The flora proved to be predominantly Mediterranean, though lacking some of the latter's characteristic elements. A list of mosses (102) and hepatics (12) is given with localities and some critical notes. *Orthotrichum insidiosum* is proposed as new, also *Mielichhoferia paradoxa* found in three stations, a quite new type which is even generically hard to place. It appears to be one of those relicts of tropical or more remote relationship, of which a number have been discovered among the mosses of southern Europe within recent years. It is compared with *Bryum splachnoides* (Harv.) C. M. originally described from India, but now known from several localities in southern Europe, from which species it is said to be entirely distinct.

The Transylvanian collections were made during the active operations of the invasion of Rumania in the border mountains of the region of Roter Turm Pass, etc. The list is not meant to be complete, though a very extensive one under the circumstances. The Carpathian moss-flora was known to some extent before, and no startling finds were made, but a good idea of the essential facts is given.

A. LEROY ANDREWS

ITHACA, N Y.